

Rolling Meadows, IL - During a tour of the Women in Need Growing Stronger (WINGS) Safe House Tuesday, Congressman Mark Kirk presented WINGS Executive Director, Rebecca Darr, with a \$200,000 federal check to help WINGS enhance programs to protect mothers and wives from domestic violence. As a member of the powerful Appropriations Committee, Kirk secured the federal funding through the Department of Justice's Assistance Grants program.

"Four million American women are attacked each year. In Chicagoland's northwest suburbs, 20,000 mothers and wives are abused each year," said Congressman Kirk. "WINGS breaks the pattern of violence by protecting women and their children from abusers. Rebecca Darr and her team care for the victims and help them to develop new safe and independent lives."

For over 20 years WINGS has provided integrated services one family at a time. Last year, WINGS opened its Safe House to protect up to 45 women and their children each night. The location of the Safe House is not published to make it more difficult for abusers to find their victims. Due to a failure of promised funding by the state of Illinois, the Safe House provides shelter for only 25 women and children each night.

"We are so appreciative to Congressman Kirk for helping secure this federal funding for the Safe House. It comes at a critical time in light of the fact that state funding has not come through," said Rebecca Darr.

The WINGS federal grant will go directly towards the care of mothers and children at the Safe House. The grant may also allow WINGS to open additional beds for women who need protection.

"I want to thank the U.S. Justice Department for recognizing WINGS for providing a secure environment for victims of domestic violence," said Kirk. "This federal funding will provide help to many north suburban women when they absolutely need it most."

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